



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Joseph Herceg, James Saiveau, Lubomir Kratjl

Serial No.: 10/637,088

Art Unit: 1753

Filed: 08/05/2003

Examiner:

Title: CONTINUOUS PROCESS ELECTROREFINER

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 CFR 1.56 AND 1.97

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231



Sir:

The citations listed on the accompanying form PTO 1449 are submitted in compliance with the duty of disclosure as defined in 37 CFR 1.56 and 1.97.

U.S. Patent No. 5,650,053 awarded to Gay, et al. on July 22, 1997 discloses a process and device for the electrorefining of spent metallic nuclear fuels. The device has parallel electrodes with anode baskets rotating within a cylindrical cathode.

U.S. Patents Nos. 5,531,868 and 5,443,705 awarded to Miller, et al. on July 2, 1996, and on August 22, 1995, respectively, disclose processes and devices for the electrorefining of uranium and plutonium.

U.S. Patent No. 5,372,794 awarded to LeMaire, et al. on December 13, 1994 discloses a process for separation of actinides from aqueous solutions.

U.S. Patent No. 5,132,092 awarded to Musikas on July 21, 1992 discloses an aqueous process for the extraction of uranium (VI) and plutonium (IV).

U.S. Patent No. 5,085,834 awarded to LeMaire, et al. on February 4, 1992 discloses an aqueous method for separating plutonium from uranium and from fission products.

U.S. Patent No. 5,009,752 awarded to Tomczuk, et al. on April 23, 1991 discloses a process and device for the electrorefinement of spent metallic nuclear fuel in the form of steel-

clad metal pins containing 90% uranium and 10% zirconium (Zr).

U.S. Patent No. 4,740,359 awarded to Hadi Ali, et al. on April 26, 1988 discloses an organic-aqueous process for recovering uranium values.

U.S. Patent No. 4,399,108 awarded to Krikorian et al. on August 16, 1983 discloses a carbothermic reduction method for the recovery of actinides.


U.S. Patent No. 4,297,174 awarded to Brambilla on October 27, 1981 discloses a pyroelectrochemical process for reprocessing irradiated nuclear fuels. The process involves dissolving fuel to be reprocessed in a fused-salt bath.

U.S. Patent No. 4,092,397 awarded to Brambilla, et al. on May 30, 1978 discloses a method for the pyrochemical separation of plutonium from irradiated nuclear fuels, by thermal decomposition in molten nitrates.

U.S. Patent No. 3,981,960 awarded to Brambilla, et al. on September 21, 1976 discloses a reprocessing method of ceramic nuclear fuel in low-melting nitrate molten salts.

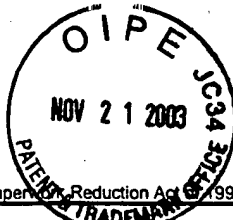
This disclosure submission is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, that additional matter material to the examination of this application does not exist, or that any one or more of these citations constitutes prior art under 35 USC 102.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Date 19 Nov 2003

Attachments:  
As Stated



PTO/SB/08A (02-03)

Approved for use through 04/30/2003. OMB 0651-0031

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	
Filing Date	
First Named Inventor	Herceg, et al.
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	S-100,120

Sheet

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**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US- 5,650,053	07-22-1997	Gay, et al.	
		US- 5,531,868	07-02-1996	Miller, et al.	
		US- 5,443,705	08-22-1995	Miller, et al.	
		US- 5,372,794	12-13-1994	LeMaire, et al.	
		US- 5,132,092	07-21-1992	Musikas, et al.	
		US- 5,085,834	02-04-1992	LeMaire, et al.	
		US- 5,009,752	04-23-1991	Tomczuk, et al.	
		US- 4,740,359	04-26-1988	Hadi Ali, et al.	
		US- 4,399,108	08-16-1983	Krikorian, et al.	
		US- 4,297,174	10-27-1981	Brambilla, et al.	
		US- 4,092,397	05-30-1978	Brambilla, et al.	
		US- 3,981,960	09-21-1976	Brambilla, et al.	
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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>d</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				

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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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